

MEDIA RELEASE

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DPS ANNOUNCES VERMONT SOLAR AND SMALL WIND INCENTIVE PROGRAM

Monpelier, VT – Public Service Commissioner David O'Brien has announced the Vermont Solar and Small Wind Incentive Program. The program will soon be accepting applications for incentive grants for small-scale solar electric, solar hot water, and wind systems.

"This program was established in renewable energy legislation enacted by the 2003 legislature and signed by Governor Douglas," said O'Brien. "It provides over half a million dollars in incentives for homeowners and small businesses that install qualified renewable energy systems." Funds for this program come from a national federal court settlement in a 1980's case against large oil companies for overcharging customers.

The program is designed to increase the number of renewable energy systems in Vermont homes and businesses, reducing electric use and heating fuel use by the customers and raising awareness of the availability and effectiveness of these systems. Installed systems benefit customers, Vermont manufacturers, system installers and the environment.

The Renewable Energy Resource Center (RERC) will administer the program on behalf of the state. Incentive reservation forms will be available from the Resource Center as soon as the program is officially launched. Information is available on the RERC website at <http://www.erc-vt.org/incentives/faq.htm>.